

Recommendation for Creation of a National Photographic Intelligence Center

The main arguments for the creation of such a center as a CIA service of common concern, with Director to be appointed by the Director of Central Intelligence with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense after consultation with USIB, include the following:

1. The present system has worked well on both TALENT and KEYHOLE missions. This proposal merely gives formal sanction to a proven arrangement which has been satisfactory to JCS, Department of Defense and other major intelligence consumers.
2. The military services' legitimate interests and needs for photo intelligence work in targeting, charting, etc., will remain unaffected.
3. The DCI, with his statutory and Presidential responsibility for intelligence affecting the national security, should have the prime responsibility for this critically important intelligence facility. Any other solution would fragment intelligence authority.
4. The Army and the Navy are already fully integrated in PIC and the Air Force has long had an open invitation to join. Conversely, the JCS and the Department of Defense have never integrated CIA in institutions under their control (NSA and ILLEGIB
5. The most experienced photo interpreters with the greatest continuity in the business are in CIA. They have enabled CIA to set the pace for the community in developing PI techniques and in

research and development on advanced equipment. (Note SAC's extensive procurement of CIA-developed instruments.)

6. Though photography should be scanned rapidly and thoroughly for indications of hostile intentions, it cannot be counted on as a major source of early warning because of cloud cover, random timing, etc. It is therefore not to be equated with radar systems and other elements of the Defense early warning complex. What is derived is largely evidence of enemy capabilities — military, industrial, and logistic.

7. Concentrated study and exploitation by highly trained personnel using expensive equipment is necessary to derive key answers to intelligence questions from this material. A facility manned jointly by experts from the intelligence community as a whole gives best hope of continuing success.

8. Such a center must be in the Washington Area to provide for briefing key officials and to permit collaboration between experts of the intelligence community's research organizations and the photo interpreters. Economical but adequate facilities for the P. I. center can be developed in an available building in the

